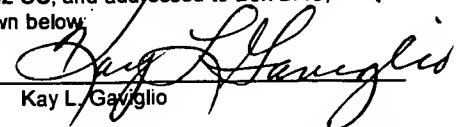


AF/6aw

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Services "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, Express Mail Label No. EL 070 474 042 US, and addressed to Box DAC, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date: December 23, 1998

By: 
Kay L. Gaviglio



PATENT
Docket No. GC329-US3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Johannes C. van der Laan, et al.) Group Art Unit: 1814
)
Serial No.: 07/565,673) Examiner: Hendricks, K.
)
Filed: August 10, 1990)
)
For: Efficient Production of Mutant Proteases)

RESPONSE UNDER C.F.R. 1.129

RECEIVED

Box DAC
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 5 1999

OFFICE OF PETITIONS
DEPUTY A/C PATENTS

Sir:

Applicants request that the finality of the Office Action of January 22, 1997, be removed as the above-referenced application has been pending for at least two years as of June 8, 1995, taking into account any reference made in such application to an earlier application. Authorization to charge the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(r) is enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and enter the following remarks and amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4-7, 9-10, 12-14, 19, 23-25, 29-35 and 38-40, without prejudice. Please substitute therefor the following new Claims 41-53.

12/31/1998 DVOUNG 00000011 071048 07565673
02 FD:146 760.00 CH